

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ELIZABETH A. BAZZICALUPO,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 05-CV-05127

**CROSS-NOTICE OF MOTION**

-against-

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant,

-----x

MOTION MADE BY:

Plaintiff, ELIZABETH A. BAZZICALUPO,  
by her attorney, HOWARD L. SHERMAN,  
15 Croton Avenue, Ossining, New York 10562

DATE, TIME AND  
PLACE OF HEARING:

A date and time to be determined by the United  
States District Court, Southern District of New  
York, to be held at the Courthouse thereof,  
White Plains, New York.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

This Cross-Notice of Motion; Memorandum of  
Law, Affirmation of Howard L. Sherman, dated the  
31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2006; the Statement of material  
facts dated the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2006; the  
Affidavit of Elizabeth A. Bazzicalupo sworn to the  
31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2006; all together with the  
pleadings and proceedings heretofore had herein.

RELIEF DEMANDED  
AND GROUNDS THEREFORE:

(A) An order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56  
granting summary judgment to the plaintiff direct  
that the defendant indemnify the plaintiff for a fire  
casualty loss pursuant to the terms of  
of the policy of insurance issued in favor of the  
plaintiff and to pay the casualty losses as demanded  
in the complaint;

(B) a declaration that NATIONWIDE must pay  
the reasonable attorney's fees of the plaintiff in  
this case;

(C) such other and further relief as to this Court  
my seem just and proper.

Must be served as scheduled by the Court.

ANSWERING AFFIDAVITS:

ORAL ARGUMENT: Requested.

DATED: Ossining, New York  
January 30, 2006

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Howard L. Sherman, Esq.  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
15 Croton Avenue  
Ossining, New York 10562  
(914) 941-4000

cc: Law Office of Roy A. Mura  
Attorney for Defendant  
930 Rand Building  
14 Lafayette square  
Buffalo, New York 14203  
(716) 855-2800

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----x  
ELIZABETH A. BAZZICALUPO,

Civil Action No. 05-CV-05127

Plaintiff,

**AFFIRMATION**

-against-

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant,

-----x  
HOWARD L. SHERMAN, an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the  
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, affirms under penalties of  
perjury:

1. That he is the attorney for the plaintiff herein and is fully familiar with the facts of this case.
2. This case is brought to enforce a policy of insurance issued by NATIONWIDE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY (hereinafter "NATIONWIDE") to and in favor of ELIZABETH A. BAZZICALUPO with regard to premises known as 8 Amawalk Drive, Lake Carmel, New York.
3. The initial policy of insurance was issued by NATIONWIDE on or about September 23, 1998.
4. The policy was issued for a period of one year.
5. On each anniversary date of the policy, the defendant, NATIONWIDE, had the option to renew the policy if it so chose.
6. In fact, the policy was renewed annually each year through the period from September 23, 2003 to September 23, 2004.

7. On June 18, 2004, the premise suffered a fire loss.

8. Demand was made upon NATIONWIDE for indemnification pursuant to the terms of the insurance policy.

9. NATIONWIDE declined to indemnify and instead revoked the policy *ab initio* based upon alleged misrepresentations by the plaintiff, ELIZABETH A. BAZZICALUPO at the time of the initial application for insurance.

10. Specifically, the defendant referred to the answers to two questions in the application for insurance.

11. These questions asked whether the plaintiff had filed bankruptcy during the immediate previous 7 years and whether any lawsuits were commenced against the bankrupt during the immediate previous 7 years.

12. The plaintiff answered "No" to each of these questions, indicating that she had not filed bankruptcy or had any lawsuits against her during the 7 years preceding the application of 1998.

13. A policy of insurance was issued to the plaintiff effective September 23, 1998. The policy term was one year.

14. Pursuant to the terms of the policy, the defendant, NATIONWIDE, had the option to renew or fail to renew the policy each year as the anniversary date of the policy approached.

15. In fact, the policy was renewed for a period of 5 consecutive years, the last renewal having been effective as of September 23, 2003.

16. In June 2003, the insured premise suffered a fire loss.

17. The plaintiff made claim upon the defendant, NATIONWIDE, for indemnification from the fire loss and NATIONWIDE rejected the claim.

18. At the time of the notification of the loss, NATIONWIDE investigated and found that the plaintiff had been named a defendant in a foreclosure action commenced in 1993 and had filed a Petition in Bankruptcy in 1994, four and a half years prior to the date of the application on which she represented that she had not filed bankruptcy or been sued within the past 7 years.

19. The Memorandum of Law interposed by the defendant cites numerous cases indicating that the questions on the application regarding the credit history of the plaintiff, including lawsuits, foreclosures and bankruptcies are material and that the defendant should be given an opportunity to accept or reject the application based upon accurate facts.

20. The plaintiff does not dispute the basic law set forth by the defendant.

21. However, as set forth in the affidavit of ELIZABETH A. BAZZICALUPO, in support of the plaintiff's cross-motion for summary judgment, the defendant renewed the policy annually.

22. At the time of the 2001 application, the bankruptcy filing by the plaintiff and the lawsuit against the plaintiff had occurred more than 7 years prior to the renewal.

23. In fact, at the time of the last 3 renewals, the statements made by the plaintiff were accurate.

24. Had NATIONWIDE taken applications in 2001, 2002 or 2003, the applications would have been accepted and the insurance would have been issued since the plaintiff had not filed bankruptcy or been sued during the previous 7 year period.

25. Although perhaps material when made, the alleged misrepresentations made by the plaintiff were not material at the time of the renewal of the policy in effect when she suffered the fire loss.

26. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the defendant should not be permitted to cancel the insurance policy *ab initio* and should be required to indemnify the plaintiff for the losses sustained as a result of the fire which took place on June 18, 2004.

27. No previous application for the relief sought herein has been made.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff respectfully requests that the defendant's motion for summary judgment be denied and the plaintiff's cross-motion for summary judgment be granted directing judgment against the defendant for indemnification; and that the matter be set for a hearing with regard to the issue of damages; that the defendant be directed to pay the reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the plaintiff in bringing this action; plus the costs and disbursements of this action and such other and further relief as to this Court may seem just and proper.

Dated: Ossining, New York  
January 31, 2006

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Howard L. Sherman